



COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE

MOTORSPORT

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The MICHELIN Pilot Sport range ready for Spa-Francorchamps challenge, an integral part of preparations for Le Mans

- The FIA WEC in Europe after the season's USA kick-off
- Spa-Francorchamps partially resurfaced and revised for superior safety
- A fundamental part of preparations for the 2022 Le Mans 24 Hours

After mid-March's 1,000 Miles of Sebring which kicked off the 2022 FIA World Endurance Championship in Florida, USA, the campaign continues with this weekend's TotalEnergies 6 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium's Ardennes Mountains.

The spectacular 7.004-kilometre, 19-turn circuit has long posed a unique challenge due to its high cornering speeds and the huge loads the cars have to cope with through Eau Rouge Raidillon.

Notorious for the demands it makes of cars and the enormous constraints it places on tyres, Spa-Francorchamps has been resurfaced partially this time around, and also revised in the interest of driver safety.

"Spa-Francorchamps has been resurfaced in places, including through Raidillon Eau Rouge where safety has been upgraded," notes **Pierre Alves**, the manager of Michelin's FIA WEC programme. "At this part of the track, the rear tires will be subjected to even bigger vertical loads, and that will put the Michelin Pilot Sport casings to a considerable test. From La Source to braking for Combes, the cars cover almost two kilometers without asking very much of their tires, which means the latter have time to cool down before tackling the sequence that comprises Combes, Rivages, Pouhon and Fagnes. After that, the Blanchimont double left-hander is a high-speed corner where our tires must be capable of delivering lateral stability and consistency. Spa-Francorchamps is a first-class venue to work on settings in readiness for Le Mans and our technicians will work in close collaboration with our partner teams to identify the optimal tire pressure/car set-up combinations."

After the race, all the data collected during the TotalEnergies 6 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps will be analysed carefully by Michelin and its partner teams to prepare for next month's Le Mans 24 Hours. For several years now, the simulation software the teams use to fine-tune their respective race strategies has become increasingly sophisticated. The role of simulation work has effectively led to big steps forward across motorsport, making reliable data essential. If only for this reason, the Belgian fixture is sure to play a key role ahead of endurance racing's annual showpiece in Le Mans.

The 2022 TotalEnergies 6 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps

	ALLOCATION					
	SLICKS			INTER	WET	
	Soft cold	Soft hot	Medium		Drying wets	Full wets
HYPERCAR						
Toyota / Glickenhaus		x	x	x		x
Alpine	x	x		x		x
LM GTE PRO						
Porsche		x	x		x	x
Ferrari		x	x		x	x
Corvette	x	x			x	x
LM GTE AM						
Porsche, Ferrari, Aston Martin		x	x		x	x

	MICHELIN PILOT SPORT SLICKS ALLOCATION PER CAR	
	Free practice	Qualifying and race
HYPERCAR	12 tires	18 tires
LM GTE PRO	12 tires	18 tires
LM GTE AM	16 tires	26 tires

In the Hypercar class, Toyota Gazoo Racing and Glickenhaus Racing both run 29/71-18 and 34/71-18 MICHELIN Pilot Sports respectively front and rear, while the Alpine Elf Team car races on 31/71-18 tyres all-round.

The LM GTE Pro and Am cars are equipped with 30/68-18 and 31/71-18 Michelins front and rear.

Michelin's ambition is to improve the mobility of its customers over the long-term. As a leader in the mobility domain, Michelin designs, manufactures and distributes tyres best-suited to customers' needs and uses, as well as services and solutions to enhance vehicle efficiency. Michelin also offers its customers ways to enjoy unique experiences during their journeys and when travelling. In addition, Michelin develops high-tech materials for many sectors of activity. Based in Clermont-Ferrand, Michelin has offices in 177 countries, employs 124,760 people and operates 68 tyre factories which together produced around 173 million tyres in 2021 (www.michelin.com).

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